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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claim 23, as set forth below in the listing of all claims which are, or were, in the application:

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) A method of administering a biologically active agent into a human or animal body, wherein said method comprises implanting, injecting, or transmucosally attaching a delivery device, wherein said delivery device comprises a controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel ~~capable of dissolving totally during a desired period when in contact with body fluids,~~ wherein ~~said silica-xerogel~~ is produced by a sol-gel process, and wherein said silica-xerogel contains a biologically active agent, and controllably releasing said biologically active agent by complete dissolution of said silica-xerogel over a desired time period when in contact with body fluid.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the silica-xerogel is a monolith.

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25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the silica-xerogel is crushed from a monolith.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said biologically active agent has been incorporated into the silica-xerogel structure by mixing said agent with the starting materials for the preparation of said silica-xerogel or by adding said agent to the reaction mixture at the sol-stage of the preparation of said silica-xerogel.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said biologically active agent is a medicine, a protein, a hormone, a living cell, a bacteria, a virus, or a part thereof.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said biologically active agent is a medicine.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said medicine is toremifene or an acid addition salt thereof.

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30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said medicine is toremifene citrate.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said silica-xerogel comprises elements selected from the group consisting of Na, Ca, P, K, Mg, Cl, Al, B, Ti, Fe, C and any combination thereof.